(b) As on 8.12.2008, applications of 155 private satellite TV channels for permission to uplink TV channels from India and applications of 34 private satellite TV channels, those uplinked from abroad, for permission to downlink in India are at various stages of scrutiny in accordance with the existing uplinking and downlinking guidelines.

Surrogate advertising

1170. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently issued a Notification amending the cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 to the effect that no advertisement shall be permitted which promotes directly or indirectly production, sale or consumption of cigarettes, tobacco products, wine, alcohol, liquor or other intoxicants;

(b) if so, the reaction of the concerned thereon;

(c) whether Government proposes to take action against tobacco and liquor companies indulging in 'surrogate' advertising in print, electronic and outdoor media even after the Notification issued by Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. A Notification No. G.S.R. 104(E) dated 25.2.2008, amending the Advertising code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder has been issued in the matter.

(b) Some representations have been received from organisations of some of the TV channels stating that the interest of genuine non-alcoholic and non-tobacco business and interest of advertising and media sectors were allegedly being affected adversely.

(c) and (d) As far as electronic media is concerned, action is taken as per rules, if the violation of Code is brought to the notice of the Government. So far as Print media is concerned, the norms framed for Journalistic Conduct under Article 13(2)(b) of the Press Council Act, 1978, Para 36(ii) of the norms clearly states that "No advertisement shall be published which promotes directly or indirectly production of sale or consumption of cigarettes, tobacco products, wine alcohol, liquor and other intoxicants." and the same is handled accordingly by the Press Council of India.

Publication of foreign news magazines

1171. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved the publication of foreign news magazines in partnership with Indian promoters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the FDI cap on these magazines; and

(d) in what manner Government would protect the interests of the journalists and domestic newspapers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has allowed the publication of Indian edition of foreign news magazines by Indian entity(ies), with or without foreign investment, subject to certain conditions. The detailed guidelines in this regard are available on the website of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (***www.mib.nic.in***).

(c) The limit of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) on publication of these magazines is 26%.

(d) The policy of allowing 26% foreign equity in Indian entities dealing with News and current affairs is already in vogue. The decision to allow publication of Indian edition of foreign news magazines is an extension of the existing policy of allowing publication of Indian editions of foreign magazines in non News and non current affairs sector and hence it will not affect the interest of the domestic print media. Adequate safeguards are provided in the aforementioned guidelines.

Welfare of Indian migrant labour

1172. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any mechanism to look to the welfare of Indian migrant labour working abroad;

(b) if so, the nodal agency therefor;

(c) whether the agency sends regular feedback/reports on the welfare of the Indian working abroad; and

(d) whether the concerned States from where the migrant labour had originally gone is informed about the matter and developments, if any?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs was created in 2004, *inter-alia*, to look after the smooth emigration of Indian workers and also their welfare and protection. This mandate is realize in coordination with, *inter-alia*, the Indian Missions abroad, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs and the State Governments.

(d) The Ministry from time to time organizes consultation meetings with the State Governments on issues relating to overseas Indians. The Ministry coordinates with State Governments and refers cases to them from time to time for action against unscrupulous recruiting agents for violation of Emigration Act and other provisions of law, on receipt of complaints about exploitation of Indian workers abroad. The Indians Missions also liaise with the concerned State Governments to coordinate action at the time of en bloc amnesty schemes announced by Governments in Gulf countries, thus necessitating mass repatriations.